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SUBJECT: DRC ELECTIONS: KABILA MAINTAINS LEAD OVER BEMBA IN
EARLY RESULTS

REF: KINSHASA 1712

¶1. (U) The DRC's Independent Electoral Commission (CEI) on November 7 released results from five additional electoral districts from the October 29 presidential election. Seventeen electoral districts, ten percent of the country's total, have been reported to date and give President Joseph Kabila a lead over Vice President Jean-Pierre Bemba by 66.2 to 33.8 percent.

¶2. (U) The 17 districts comprise eight districts each from the DRC's eastern and western regions, plus one district from the central area of the Kasais, and account for a total of 1,088,464 valid votes. Turnout is down approximately nine percent in these districts compared to the July 30 election, and currently averages 67.4 percent, down from the 71 percent nationwide participation in the first round. Participation in the eight western electoral districts is proportionately lower than the eight in the east. Turnout in the Eastern Kasai district of Katanda, near Mbuji-Mayi, was 26 percent, only one-half of one percent higher than on July 30.

¶3. (U) Kabila's support continues to come primarily from eastern provinces, Bemba's in the west. Results reported from Katanga, Maniema and North Kivu provinces show Kabila winning nearly 96 percent of the vote. Bemba won nearly 80 percent of the vote reported in Bandundu, Bas-Congo, and Equateur provinces. Bemba also won 92 percent of the one district reported in Eastern Kasai.

¶4. (SBU) Comment: These early results represent just ten percent of the DRC's 169 electoral districts. They should not be viewed as indicating any particular voting trends. End comment.
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